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National Farm Safety Week which was so successfully observed last year is again endorsed by the Secretary of Agriculture and the War Food Administrator.

The Department of Agriculture heartily approves the observance of a second National Farm Safety Week, as planned by the National Safety Council and various farm organizations from July 22 to 28, 1945.

The success attained by the nation-wide observance of Farm Safety Week last year in focusing attention on the need for carrying on accident and fire prevention activities in rural communities has been very gratifying. While the actual results are difficult to measure, it is certain that this energetic program did much to reduce the occurrence of farm accidents and contributed greatly to the conservation of farm manpower.

We assure you that agencies of the Department will again lend all possible assistance to this worthwhile movement in their contacts with farmers and farm people.

Sincerely yours,

*Claude R. Wickard*

Secretary

The American farmer is being called upon during 1945 to meet the highest crop production goals of the war years with fewer men in the ranks of farm labor. If this all out production of food and fiber is to be maintained, it is imperative that both manpower and property losses due to farm accidents be materially reduced.

The results obtained through the observance of National Farm Safety Week during 1944 clearly demonstrates that this is an effective means of minimizing such losses.

The War Food Administration therefore considers the second observance of National Farm Safety Week, July 22-28, of vital importance and assures you wholehearted cooperation in carrying on this program.

Sincerely yours,

*Marvin Jones*

Administrator



Food Information Series  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Office of Information  
Washington 25, D. C.

April 6, 1945

No. 97

Subject: National Farm Safety Week

Time: July 22 through July 28, 1945

Purpose: To focus national attention on the farm and home accident and fire problem and promote the active interest of farm families in correcting hazardous conditions that might cause the occurrence of accidents and fires.

Suggested Use: Background Information.

Distribution: All Agencies

— Extent of U.S. Farm Accident Losses —

Accidents killed 17,200 farm people and injured 1,500,000 during 1943. Of the injured, approximately 15,000 were crippled for life.

The monetary loss from accidents during 1943 totaled approximately \$1,000,000,000.

— Extent of U.S. Farm Fire Losses —

3500 farm people lost their lives and more than \$90,000,000 in property was destroyed last year by farm fires.

### Highlights - Farm Accident Facts

----Deaths from farm work accidents in 1943 totaled more than in any of the other five major industries, amounting to 25 per cent of all occupational deaths.

----Non-fatal farm work injuries totaled approximately 225,000 in 1943.

----More farm people were killed by accidents in America's first two years participation in the war than the number of fighting men killed in the war itself.

----Careless use of farm machinery is the chief cause of farm work accidents with livestock close behind.

----Two fifths of the total accidents to farm residents in 1943 occurred in the home.

----Deaths due to farm home accidents numbered approximately 7500 and injuries about 1,000,000.

----For each \$10.00 of gross income the farmer as a class pays out about \$1.00 as the result of accidents and fires.

### Highlights - Farm Fire Facts

----A farm home or farm building catches fire every fifteen minutes during the day in the U. S.

----The cost of farm fires totals \$273,972 each day.

----An average of ten lives are lost in farm fires each day.

----It is estimated that out of the more than 6½ million farms in the country, one in thirty-seven had a disastrous experience with fire in the five-year period 1936 - 1940.

----Latest reports indicate that fire losses in the United States last year were the highest in this country since 1932.

### What Can Be Done

The majority of farm accidents and fires can be prevented if every farm family will put into effect this simple three-point safety program.

- 1 - Learn to recognize and hunt out the accident and fire hazards on the farm and in the farm home.
- 2 - Correct or remove those hazards that you can.
- 3 - Learn to live and work safely with those hazards that cannot be immediately corrected or removed.

The following check list provides farm families with a simple but effective means of discovering for themselves whatever common hazards exist on their farms. Undoubtedly every farmer will have additional ideas to augment this list.

### FARM HAZARDS CHECK LIST

#### Are You Protecting Your Family and Property Against Fires? Do You--

- Regularly inspect and clean chimneys and stovepipes?
- Avoid using kerosene and gasoline in starting fires?
- Insulate wood and other inflammable materials from the heat of stove and stovepipes?
- Store gasoline and other inflammable or explosive materials at safe distances from major farm buildings?
- Properly clean and adjust kerosene and other burners?
- Do you keep electrical extension cords and appliances in good repair?
- Have handy means available for putting out fires?

#### Are You Protecting Your Family Against Preventable Falls? Do You--

- Use only safe ladders, securely fastened?
- Provide adequate handrails for steps, porches, stairways?
- Keep steps, porches, and stairways in good repair and clear of rubbish and all tripping hazards?
- Keep wells, cisterns, pits, etc., securely covered?

#### Are You Protecting Your Family Against Preventable Injuries From Animals? Do You--

- Keep bulls, boars, and rams securely penned?
- Use care in handling animals with newborn young?
- Keep vicious dogs tied up and away from children?
- Speak to animals before entering stalls?

#### Are You Protecting Your Family Against Preventable Injuries by Machinery, Tools, Equipment of All Kinds? Do You--

- Keep all hazardous belts, gears, etc., well guarded?
- Permit only experienced operators on machinery?
- Stop equipment before adjusting, refueling, etc?
- Keep children away from dangerous equipment?
- Safely use and store sharp-edged tools?
- Keep yard clear of broken tools, machinery, etc.?

#### Are You Encouraging Accident Prevention in Your Home? Do You--

- Urge members of your family to work safely, play safely, drive safely, and otherwise prevent accident by correcting conditions that might cause accidents?

#### Do You--

- Have first-aid materials on hand for treatment of minor injuries? Are members of the family familiar with the proper use of first-aid materials?

Inspection points the way to protection. Locate the danger spots on the farm and in the farm home and get rid of them.

U.S.D.A. publications that give additional information on farm accident and fire prevention measures:

- AWI 44 "Going to the Farm Front?" A healthful place to work if you use common sense and remember a few "don'ts". A safety tips flyer of value to U.S. Crop Corps.
- AWI 45 "Start Them Right." Gives valuable suggestions to the farmer using new members of the U.S. Crop Corps.
- AWI 87 "Prevent Accidents." Gives suggestions for accident prevention on the farm.
- MP 481 "Watch Your Step." A little book of suggestions: how to eliminate farm hazards, and how to anticipate and remove the cause of accidents. Of general interest. Thirty-two pages, illustrated.
- FB 1512 "Protection of Buildings and Farm Property from Lightning." This bulletin gives concise, practical, and up-to-date information on the selection and installation of protective equipment of value to all property owners; 32 pages, fully illustrated.
- FB 1590 "Fire-protective Construction on the Farm" is a bulletin embodying the results of studies of the causes of farm fires and ways and means of control and prevention. Of general interest. Twenty-two pages, illustrated.
- FB 1643 "Fire Safeguards for the Farm" tells how to lessen or avoid fire hazards on the farm which cause one hundred million dollars loss a year. Twenty-nine pages, illustrated.
- FB 1678 "Safe Use and Storage of Gasoline and Kerosene on the Farm" points out the most common hazards, and the precautions that should be used. Of general interest. Fourteen pages, illustrated.
- FB 1786 "Fireproofing Fabrics." A brief explanation of the action of various fireproofing agents. Points out the good and bad qualities of those more commonly used. Of general interest. Nine pages, illustrated.
- FB 1926 "Preventing Destructive Fires in Southern Woodlands" emphasizes need for woodland protection and points out why some people think they should burn the woods with the resultant losses caused by such practices. Of particular interest in pine producing areas. Fifteen pages, fully illustrated.
- L 44 "Fires on the Farm" discusses some of the principal fire hazards and how to avoid them. Seven pages, illustrated.
- L 193 "Fireproofing Christmas Trees" tells how to reduce the holiday fire hazard by the use of cheap and easily obtained chemicals.
- REA Leaflets A series of publications giving practical suggestions on the care and use of electrical appliances.

These publications may be obtained by writing to the Office of Information, Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C. Other materials on farm safety may be obtained from your State Agricultural Extension Service.